



ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOMES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: HUD'S ENERGY ACTION PLAN



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 21-point Energy Action Plan is a comprehensive strategy to address the cost of energy and promote energy efficiency in HUD-assisted, financed, or subsidized housing. The Energy Action Plan furthers HUD's mission of increasing homeownership, supporting community development and increasing access to affordable housing, and it establishes a framework for focusing HUD's energy efficiency and conservation initiatives.

Who benefits? Implementing the Energy Action Plan could yield significant cost savings to property owners, renters, and new or existing home buyers of FHA-insured homes. HUD spends some \$4 billion each year on energy—more than 10 percent of its budget—through operating grants to public housing authorities, housing assistance payments to private building owners, or utility allowances to renters. HUD spends an estimated \$1.1 billion each year on utilities in public housing alone, apart from utility allowances that go directly to residents. Reducing HUD's energy bill by just five percent could yield a savings of \$2 billion over the next ten years.

Key Strategies. The Energy Action Plan identifies a range of activities that encourage energy efficiency and conservation in the five million housing units that are assisted, insured, or subsidized through HUD programs. The Plan focuses on upgrading the energy efficiency of new and existing housing, using an established inventory of proven energy-efficient products and appliances that can be put to work immediately through existing programs. HUD will accomplish this through:

- ▶ Education, outreach, and training
- ▶ Interagency cooperation
- ▶ Market-based incentives
- ▶ Public-private partnerships

The Action Plan identifies 21 actions:

I – Strengthen interagency partnerships

Action 1 – Work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to distribute information about ENERGY STAR® to HUD customers and clients.

Action 2 – Initiate joint HUD and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) multifamily weatherization partnerships in at least five states.

Action 3 – Formalize interagency partnerships with DOE and EPA.

II – Provide information, training, and technical assistance

Action 4 – Coordinate Department-wide training workshops and standardize information on energy-efficient healthy housing.

Action 5 – Sponsor energy efficiency training for assisted multifamily housing managers and maintenance staff.

Action 6 – Provide technical assistance to encourage energy efficiency when using HOME and CDBG funds.

Action 7 – Assist non-profit and faith-based organizations to develop, build, and manage energy-efficient housing.

III – Strengthen rewards and incentives

Action 8 – Streamline procedures for energy performance contracting in public housing.

Action 9 – Feature Energy Efficient Mortgages as a priority loan product.

Action 10 – Simplify regulatory requirements for Energy Efficient Mortgages.

Action 11 – Award priority rating points for energy-efficient housing in HUD's competitive grant programs.

IV – Strengthen energy standards and program requirements

Action 12 – Require housing authorities to base equipment purchases on ENERGY STAR specifications (unless demonstrated that it is not cost-effective).

Action 13 – Establish HOPE VI as a leader in cost-effective and energy-efficient new construction.

V – Strengthen management and monitoring

Action 14 – Assign Department-wide responsibility for coordinating and supporting HUD's energy programs.

Action 15 – Include energy efficiency performance measures in the Annual Performance Plan.

Action 16 – Improve tracking and monitoring of energy efficiency in public and assisted housing.

Action 17 – Improve tracking and evaluate performance of Energy Efficient Mortgages.

VI – Support policy analysis and technology research

Action 18 – Conduct energy-related policy analysis and research.

Action 19 – Research, test, and demonstrate innovative technologies in new construction and existing housing.

Action 20 – Promote combined heating and power (CHP) in public or assisted housing.

Action 21 – Develop integrated approaches to energy efficiency and environmental hazards in the home.

ENERGY STAR Partnership

An important focus of the Energy Action Plan is expanding the use of ENERGY STAR in HUD-assisted or financed housing and in public housing. HUD has signed a memorandum of understanding with EPA and DOE to increase awareness among HUD's customers and partners of the benefits of ENERGY STAR qualified products and appliances as well as of ENERGY STAR qualified new homes.

Energy Task Force

Created by Secretary Alphonso Jackson, a Department-wide Energy Task Force implements the Energy Action Plan. Through an unprecedented cooperative effort, the Task Force involves key program offices—Public and Indian Housing (PIH), Housing Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control, Field Policy and Management, and Departmental Operations and Coordination—and is co-chaired by the Offices of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) and Community Planning and Development. Regional Energy Coordinators have been designated in each of HUD's ten regions.

What can you do to help? Every HUD customer, grantee, or partner has a role to play in helping HUD achieve the actions set forth in the Energy Action Plan.

For More Information

Please see the Partnerships for Home Energy Efficiency website at www.energysavers.gov and visit our website at www.hud.gov/energy